REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 17, 2009 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1, 4, 7-11, 22, 27-31, and 34-37 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-12, 14-22, 24-31, and 33 stand rejected. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 12-21, 32, and 33 have been canceled. Claims 34-37 have been added. No new matter has been added.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 7-12, and 14-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement is moot.

In particular, the feature of requiring access to at least one superuser level function and requesting a second level or heightened level of authorization to access the superuser function has been removed from the pending claims.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the Section 112 rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 7-12, and 14-21 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 7-12, and 14-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite is respectfully traversed.

In particular, the feature of requiring access to at least one superuser level function and requesting a second level or heightened level of authorization to access the superuser function has been removed from the pending claims.

Further, Claims 29-31 have been amended to correct antecedence.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the Section 112 rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 7-12, and 14-21 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 7-11, 22, 24-28, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,875,430 to Koether (hereinafter referred to as "Koether") is respectfully traversed.

Koether describes a bi-directional communication system (100) that provides real-time computer-aided diagnostics, asset history, accounting records, maintenance records, and energy management to ensure proper work allocation of administrative and repair tasks in the food service industry. The system (100) includes a control center (170), a plurality of kitchen base stations (150) connected to the control center (170), and a plurality of kitchen or cooking appliances (110) connected to a base station (150) located within a corresponding site or cell (105). Maintenance and/or repair, once initialized, are monitored through the control center (170), which includes a database (190) with software diagnostics, accounting records, inventory records, and maintenance records for the particular appliance (110) under service. Upon effecting repair, control center (170) prepares and transmits at block (770) an appropriate invoice. The subscriber or an authorized person thereof then enters a security password or code, such as a personal identification number (PIN) authorizing funds to be transferred from the subscriber's institution to the service agency that performed the repair or maintenance. Notably, Koether does not describe or suggest receiving, from a first appliance of a plurality of appliances, a request to perform a service diagnosis of at least one appliance of the plurality of appliances, wherein each of the plurality of appliances are communicatively coupled through a communication bus, and if it is determined that the first appliance has obtained control of the communication bus, performing a service diagnosis of the at least one appliance using commands specific to the at least one appliance that are obtained from a device information table.

Claim 1 recites a method of performing service diagnostics on appliances, that includes "receiving, from a first appliance of a plurality of appliances, a request to perform a service diagnosis of at least one appliance of the plurality of appliances, wherein each of the plurality of appliances are communicatively coupled through a communication bus; determining whether the

first appliance has obtained control of the communication bus; if it is determined that the first appliance has obtained control of the communication bus, performing a service diagnosis of the at least one appliance using commands specific to the at least one appliance that are obtained from a device information table; and servicing the at least one appliance, said servicing comprising at least one of adjusting a characteristic of the at least one appliance and displaying to a technician the service diagnosis."

Nowhere does Koether describe or suggest a method of performing service diagnostics on appliances, as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, nowhere does Koether describe or suggest receiving, from a first appliance of a plurality of appliances, a request to perform a service diagnosis of at least one appliance of the plurality of appliances, wherein each of the plurality of appliances are communicatively coupled through a communication bus, and if it is determined that the first appliance has obtained control of the communication bus, performing a service diagnosis of the at least one appliance using commands specific to the at least one appliance that are obtained from a device information table. In contrast, Koether describes a bi-directional communication system that provides real-time computer-aided diagnostics, asset history, accounting records, maintenance records, and energy management to ensure proper work allocation of administrative and repair tasks in the food service industry.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Koether.

Claims 3 and 5 have been canceled. Claims 7-11, 30, and 31 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 7-11, 30, and 31 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 7-11, 30, and 31 likewise are patentable over Koether.

Claim 22 recites a diagnostic system for providing access to service diagnostics on an appliance. The diagnostic system includes "a plurality of appliances; a communication bus configured to be directly connected to said plurality of appliances, wherein said communication

bus facilitates transmitting, from a first appliance of said plurality of appliances to at least one appliance of said plurality of appliances, a request to perform a service diagnosis of at least one appliance of said plurality of appliances via service diagnostics commands specific to said at least one appliance and obtained from a device information table; a microprocessor programmed to determine whether the first appliance has obtained control of the communication bus, and if the first appliance has obtained control of the communication bus, permit transmission of the service diagnostics commands; and a dedicated appliance controller for receiving and executing the service diagnostics commands."

Nowhere does Koether describe or suggest a diagnostic system for providing access to service diagnostics on an appliance as recited in Claim 22. More specifically, nowhere does Koether describe or suggest a communication bus that facilitates transmitting, from a first appliance of a plurality of appliances to at least one appliance of the plurality of appliances, a request to perform a service diagnosis of at least one appliance of the plurality of appliances via service diagnostics commands specific to the at least one appliance and obtained from a device information table, and a microprocessor programmed to determine whether the first appliance has obtained control of the communication bus, wherein if the first appliance has obtained control of the communication bus, transmission of the service diagnostics commands is permitted. In contrast, Koether describes a bi-directional communication system that provides real-time computer-aided diagnostics, asset history, accounting records, maintenance records, and energy management to ensure proper work allocation of administrative and repair tasks in the food service industry.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 22 is submitted to be patentable over Koether.

Claims 24-26 and 33 have been canceled. Claims 27 and 28 depend from independent Claim 22. When the recitations of Claims 27 and 28 are considered in combination with the

recitations of Claim 22, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 27 and 28 likewise are patentable over Koether.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 7-11, 22, 24-28, and 33 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 12, 14-21, and 29-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koether in view of U.S. Patent 4,580,276 to Andruzzi, Jr., et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Andruzzi") is respectfully traversed.

Koether is described above.

Andruzzi describes an amplitude-shift keying/frequency-shift keying (ASK/FSK) data encoding and transmission scheme. In a particular embodiment, Andruzzi describes the transmission scheme as functioning along the lines of a common power-line carrier system. Data is exchanged in a bidirectional fashion (half-duplex) within a localized transmission medium defined by the electrical distribution system (metallic conductors) of a building, house, or any localized residential/commercial complex. Notably, Andruzzi does not describe or suggest a communication bus that facilitates transmitting, from a first appliance of a plurality of appliances, a request to perform a service diagnosis of at least one appliance of the plurality of appliances via service diagnostics commands specific to the at least one appliance and obtained from a device information table, and a microprocessor programmed to determine whether the first appliance has obtained control of the communication bus, wherein if the first appliance has obtained control of the communication bus, transmission of the service diagnostics commands is permitted.

Claims 12 and 14-21 have been canceled.

Claims 29-31 depend from independent Claim 22, which is recited above.

No combination of Koether and Andruzzi describes or suggests a diagnostic system for providing access to service diagnostics on an appliance, as recited in Claim 22. More specifically, no combination of Koether and Andruzzi describes or suggests a communication bus that facilitates transmitting, from a first appliance of a plurality of appliances, a request to perform a service diagnosis of at least one appliance of the plurality of appliances via service diagnostics commands specific to the at least one appliance and obtained from a device information table, and a microprocessor programmed to determine whether the first appliance has obtained control of the communication bus, wherein if the first appliance has obtained control of the communication bus, transmission of the service diagnostics commands is permitted. In contrast, Koether describes a bi-directional communication system that provides real-time computer-aided diagnostics, asset history, accounting records, maintenance records, and energy management to ensure proper work allocation of administrative and repair tasks in the food service industry, and Andruzzi merely describes a transmission scheme wherein data is exchanged in a bidirectional fashion (half-duplex) within a localized transmission medium.

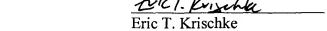
Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 22 is submitted to be patentable over Koether in view of Andruzzi.

Claims 29-31 depend from independent Claim 22. When the recitations of Claims 29-31 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 22, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 29-31 likewise are patentable over Koether in view of Andruzzi.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 12, 14-21, and 29-31 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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